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Editor

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MAY, 1946

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(at May 31, 1946)

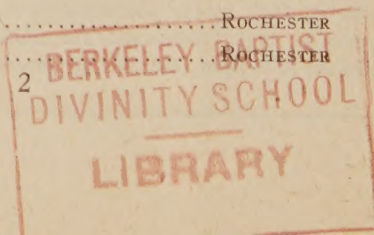
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THE ANNUAL meeting of the Baptist Education Society of the State of New York was called to order by the Acting Chairman in the Assembly Room of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York, on Monday, May 20, 1946, at 11:30 A. M.

Harvey F. Remington, the president, was unable to attend.

Orrin R. Judd, Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presided.

Prayer was offered by President Edwin McNeill Poteat, D. D., Litt.D., of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting, which were published and mailed, were approved.

The President of the Divinity School and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society both presented their annual reports. They were accepted and ordered filed.

The resignations from the Board of Trustees by J. Hillis Miller and Kenneth I. Brown were accepted with regret.

Mr. Howard J. Henderson, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented his report, which was as follows:

HARVEY F. REMINGTON, <i>President</i>	CHARLES C. TILLINGHAST, <i>Hon. Vice-Pres.</i>
STANLEY HAZZARD, <i>1st Vice-Pres.</i>	
WILLIAM S. ABERNETHY, <i>2nd Vice-Pres.</i>	WILLARD S. RICHARDSON, <i>Hon. Vice-Pres.</i>
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Moved, seconded and unanimously voted that the secretary be instructed to cast one ballot for the election of the persons nominated for the respective offices. The ballot was deposited, and the Acting Chairman declared the nominees elected.

The Acting Chairman appointed the following to serve on the Nominating Committee to report at the next annual meeting:

HOWARD J. HENDERSON, *Chairman*
CHARLES W. CARSON

J. SAWYER FITCH
ARTHUR L. STEWART

No further business being presented, a motion to adjourn was passed.

(Signed) F. A. PIOTROW
Secretary-Treasurer

The Annual Report to the
Board of Trustees
OF THE
BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK

Seventeenth Annual Report of
THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLGATE-ROCHESTER
DIVINITY SCHOOL

MAY 1946

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

From the point of view of our educational obligations—which are our major concern—the most important event of the past year has been the publishing and circulation of Hartshorne and Froyd's book, *Theological Education in the Northern Baptist Convention*. Since each of you has received a copy and had the opportunity for studying it, there is no need for extended comment. There may be value, however, in indicating certain general conclusions which are not unrelated to the year's work on which I am reporting.

The survey establishes the fact that theological education is, for the most part, poorly conceived and fumblingly executed. One wonders whether some engaged in it know what education is and whether, if they were to find out, they would dare to tackle it. At one extreme, conceived as the process of indoctrinating young men with infallible ideas and the acceptance of simple technics that long since have hardened into stereotype; at the other, conceived as detached and pedantic research preoccupied with the minutiae of textual criticism or the dissection of theological cadavers, theological education is sharing in the general distrust of our whole educative process that has aroused the titans of the school house to rise to its re-examination.

Exception is to be taken to such generalizations, and we of CRDS are not slow to do so. By and large our record as indicated by this

study is among the best; but we cannot look at our particular job without seeing it in the context of the total problem. If "there are few theological professors today who could be certified to teach in the schools of any state" (page 219), this is a condition that affects us even if it does not indict our faculty; if theological education has not been conceived as professional education, this gives us more reason for extending to wider areas our present realistic efforts to make it so; "if," as the report states (page 52) "what the churches say they want should be taken as the basis for theological education the clock would have to be turned back a hundred years," then manifestly it is part of our task to rouse the lay mind from its century-old slumber and set a new chronometer in front of sleepy eyes.

We are far from saying that we are without sin before the arraignment of Hartshorne and Froyd, nor do we press the point that there may be some who are more grievous transgressors than we. Nor is our grateful acceptance of the report a morbid delight in pathology. The tradition of this School has made it inevitable that much that confronts us in the report should have been confronted elsewhere and therefore has come to us as no surprise. The consistent and progressive effort to make our curriculum and teaching method professional in the best sense has put us out ahead of some of the report's constructive proposals; and our firm assurance that education is a function of living and that as life changes, understandings must be accommodated to change if education is not to be a straight-jacket—this makes experiment both normal and congenial to us. We have long believed that this institution should be a laboratory and not a museum, a clinic rather than an apothecary's shelf.

1.

We are now abandoning the accelerated program that was made necessary by the war. No one liked it; no one thought it anything but a confusion and a compromise, and relief from it gives to all education the freedom without which education is suffocated. Beginning in September we effected the change from a two semester to a three term curriculum calendar. This has provided for somewhat different distribution of teaching hours and student load and allows, without demanding much additional time, somewhat smoother and more mobile curriculum operations. More and more the effort is being made to conform our instructional approach to clinical or work-shop techniques. To illustrate: A new procedure was introduced this year by Professors Cross and Willkens in the joint conduct of a course called "The

Old Testament in Religious Education." Discussions were led by Professor Cross in the interpretative use of material and by Professor Willkens in its curricular and practical application. Students made specific contribution in research studies on specified problems. The course covered such areas as the study of the Bible book by book, biographical adaptations, story-telling, preaching from the Bible, dramatizations, workshop materials and the training of lay leadership. This experiment proved so fruitful that the course will be repeated. This however, is only one of several such attempts to convert the class-room from a forum into a laboratory, to teach by helping students solve their *own* problems rather than by putting primary dependence on lectures about the neat solutions compounded by their wiser and more accomplished forebears.

2.

Students are the basic ingredient in the educational product. A year ago, at which time we seemed to have reached the nadir of our enrollment total, we anticipated a student body of ninety. The records show seventy-seven. We confer degrees on thirty graduates on May 20th. This disproportionately large class is due to acceleration and to the fact that some who have finished their required work earlier have deferred their graduation in order to share the exercises with the larger group. This general situation will be reflected in the smaller size of next year's graduation class, but the class units will, in the meantime, have been regularized and we shall once again be clear as to who are First, Second, and Third year students. Our current records on enrollment as of May indicate that we will admit twenty-five in September. There is good reason for thinking this number will show increase by registration day in September, giving a total enrollment of eighty-five or more. We feel we are definitely past the student famine of the last three years.

The increased ratio of married to single students is a circumstance we share with all educational institutions. The war is its efficient cause, but there is considerable ground for thinking the proximate cause to be the general lowering of the marriage age. For the moment we are in practical difficulties with the high demand for apartments for married applicants who represent 52% of our expected enrollment. Five years ago the ratio was about the same, but there were housing opportunities available in the community which have long since been closed to us. We shall make shift to accommodate our immediate needs but as we plan for the long term it will be wise to make clear to ourselves the nature of the all-over problem. Certain modifications

in our physical plant are already under way. By September the lower floor of Eaton Hall will have provided five new apartments for married students. A new reception room opposite the main entrance in Trevor will afford a much needed convenience to the guests and friends of the men in that dormitory.

The problem of feeding students still awaits a modern adaptation of the loaves and fishes episode and until the miracle-worker reappears, we shall have to struggle along with boarding clubs or other dietary expedients that are tainted somehow with the sure corruption of original sin. Despite great patience and care, fine student understanding and cooperation, and the unusual devotion of Miss Cogswell and her colleagues, we have found it necessary to grant subsidies to the Boarding Club in order to meet the low student participation and the high cost of living. We try to believe that this situation will level off into more normal ways, but we must be prepared to face the effect of the increasing ratio of our married student population on this important aspect of our student community. The Executive Committee has shown great diligence and realism in facing it and is doing all that can be expected to secure the maximum returns from all the elements in what has been, since the first dormitory dining room of recorded time, an administrative headache.

Studies conducted by Dean Baker in all phases of student activity have produced interesting data relative to the use and distribution of student time. The average work week last year was seventy hours, forty of which were spent in academic effort and thirty in the responsibilities of field work. This is a statistical comment on what is uniformly felt to have been a year in which the men have done their work with a high average of diligence and achievement. In this connection it is pertinent to remark that the chapel services uniformly afford a rare experience for the cultivation of the proper sensitiveness to worship values and methods as well as the exercise of genuine devotion. Aside from the scheduled chapel programs, there has been, under student direction a period on Friday morning where in silent meditation, spontaneous song, directed prayer, or organ music, the men have met in the sort of fellowship of devotion that often has saved class routine from spiritual dryness. The students are careful not to allow the rigors of intellectual discipline to dull or preempt their corporate and private devotions.

A complete report of the Librarian is on file but certain acquisitions of rare value have been suggested by Professor Trost as having unusual interest for us:

"Book and periodical funds remained the same as in the previous year, namely, \$2,000.00 for books, and \$700.00 for periodicals. The book appropriation is \$600.00 less than the amount allocated for this purpose prior to the war. Now that peace has returned, our book purchases will naturally increase, thus necessitating a larger book appropriation. During the past fiscal year the number of accessions amounted to 1,222, an increase of 201 books over last year. Included in this figure are 134 gifts and 293 periodicals.

The most significant purchase made during the year was *The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, in ten volumes and index, a valuable reference work on subjects pertaining to Jewish history and culture. Sixteen volumes of the *Watchman* (1895-1909) were added by purchase.

Outstanding gifts received by the library included a *New Testament* containing the English and Mandarin translations in parallel columns, presented by the Reverend William F. Burton, '44. A Japanese Bible, transliterated according to the Authorized Version, was presented to the library through the kindness of Dr. G. B. Hondelink. A collection of over 400 books, mostly in the New Testament field, was received as a gift from Ernest W. Parsons, Emeritus Professor of New Testament at Colgate-Rochester. Our library was further enriched by the gift of nearly 450 books, mostly in the field of Semitics, from the library of the late Dr. George Ricker Berry, former Professor of the Old Testament in the Divinity School. These were presented by his daughter, Miss Miriam C. Berry of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who also gave to the library the late Dr. Berry's collection of Roman glass, pottery, bronzes, and coins. Collections of miscellaneous books were received from Mrs. Herbert P. Lansdale, Sr., and Dr. Gordon W. Mattice. Ten bound volumes of the *Watchman Examiner* for the years 1924-1934 were received from the American Baptist Historical Society.

The Reverend and Mrs. Samuel E. Samuelson, former missionaries in Burma, presented a collection of Burmese books, clothing, musical instruments, art curios, and jewelry. Mr. Samuelson was a member of the class of 1903.

3.

The illness of Professors Nixon and Morrison and necessarily extended periods of convalescence made certain curricular adjustments advisable which we were able to make in such a way as allowed our colleagues all the relief that the doctors prescribed. Dr. Nixon, stricken in the summer was able to carry a reduced load when the fall term began and Dr. Morrison's schedule, suddenly interrupted in January, was generously taken over by Dr. Nicely who has been associated with

him in the department of Homiletics. Schedules are more easily repaired than bodily organisms. Happily, however, in this case, the impairment in both categories has been mended and we are grateful for the return of normal vigor in these two key men. Otherwise we seem to have maintained a better than average health record. The index of absenteeism stands at practically zero.

Three of our emeriti have died during the year: Dr. George R. Berry on May 24, 1945, Dr. Lewis Kaiser on January 17, 1946 and Dr. Albert J. Ramaker on February 14, 1946. Professor H. R. Holcomb, Jr. appointed last May has finished a full and fruitful first year, and Professor Albert Terrell Rasmussen who was elected at the called meeting of the Trustees in February, begins his services as Professor of Ethics and the Sociology of Religion in September of this year. Dean Thomas Wearing retires from formal association with the institution this May, but it is as unthinkable that his informal contacts will be lost to us as that his years of fruitful service here could have been dissociated from his urbane and warm-hearted gentility.

The frequency of faculty gatherings, formal and informal, have increased markedly the democratic conduct of our joint responsibilities. Once a month the men have met in the evening for dinner and followed the meal with the presentation of one of the fields of theological interest by the expert in charge. This has produced an all around acquaintance with the subject matter, teaching method and scholarly aims of each man which have hitherto been sketchily known by those working in other fields, and has made possible vigorous and creative exchange of ideas which are already leading to that sort of cross-fertilization among fields of academic interest which is basic to a coordinated program of education.

Field work, so greatly important and yet so often inadequately supervised, has been conspicuously improved. The tireless and exacting attentions of Dr. Morrison have been supplemented by the organizational enterprise of Dr. Willkens. By the end of the current school year, all the allocations for field work for old and new students will have been made, and the summer months will allow for such specific arrangements as may be needed by emergency changes. Altogether sixty-five churches have had the services of our students; forty-nine as full time pastors, seventeen as associate minister and leaders of religious education. Students have earned for their own support \$56,864.00. Accessions to church membership and the Christian life are more than gratifying, and the aggregate of pastoral visits shows the extent of personal ministry that is the constant concern of the men

in their parishes. Plans are maturing for a wider distribution of the responsibility for field work supervision among the faculty members in order that more intimate and frequent advisory aid may be available for the enrichment of student parish life. Dr. Willkens reports:

"An important forward-step in this connection was the organization of a 'Rural Church Council', consisting of student pastors, the dean and several faculty members, and denominational and interdenominational executives. This group has met a number of times to discuss ways and means of improving relationship of the students to the churches and the denominations which they are serving. On several occasions denominational executives have met with the students to interpret denominational objectives to them and to give the students the necessary orientation. Special attention was given to the development of 'Larger Parishes.'"

In, and it might be added, above all, has been the service of the faculty in the churches and the general denominational interest. Dean Baker, appointed to serve as chairman of the Committee on Curriculum of the Board of Education of the N.B.C., is undertaking to direct the reconstruction of the curricula of the theological schools of the Convention as indicated in the recommendations of the Hartshorne report. Dr. Willkens has spent many days in work-shop conferences with denominational leaders in the Philadelphia and Chicago areas, presenting new methods and materials to those responsible for church school programs. Records are not available of the number of supplies for which our men have been ready, often in difficult emergency situations in all sorts of weather and in places that run the gamut of variety all the way from pretentious university platforms to the modest pulpits of village churches. There is none who has stinted time or spared effort in ministry outside the prescribed duties of the class-room and office. For the publication of books (note specifically the Nixon-Hudson edited volume in honor of Professor C. H. Moehlman) and the writing of scholarly monographs, and for answering the calls of distressed church officers for counsel in difficult problems, there has always somehow been time and competence, a record of which is beyond the reach and the need of computation.

4.

The life of such an institution affords many extra-curricular benefits, and with the return of ample fuel for motor cars, more and more use is being found for our plant by the community. The James Colgate Memorial Chapel is increasingly in demand for weddings for which it is so admirably adapted. Our kitchen and dining-room facilities

offer high-grade services to select groups who find the privacy and beauty of our hill highly desirable and inexpensively secured. Incidentally such services accrue to the benefit of our Boarding Club expenditures. Distinguished speakers visit us at the regular Chapel hour and for special gatherings, Lent and otherwise. Dr. Earl Cross's dramatic presentation of Jeremiah's Temple Sermon was delivered to a crowded chapel on April 16. Dr. Willkens reports: "it was immeasurably helpful. A long discussion in class several days later revealed the fact that many of our students would appreciate additional training in public speaking and the use of drama."

Convocation Week was the apex of such occasions. It brought to us Gerald Heard whose lectures delivered without the barrier of manuscript were like a meteor released in a room, sweeping the tops of our astonished heads and scattering shiney dust in our eyes. William G. Mather's careful lectures demonstrated how a skillful craftsman can collect material from all over the nation and construct, before admiring eyes, an artifice of wisdom and delight. Charles L. Seasholes demonstrated the art of devotional preaching in a manner that warmed the heart and engaged the mind; and Charles Banning, speaking for and to the alumni at the annual banquet did a workmanlike job telling young ministers what waits for them in the offing when they are set free from these walls. It is true to say that despite the still far from tranquil domestic and international situations there is a sense of release from the tensions of the war years that is manifest in the zest with which relaxation in wholesome fun is indulged. This is as important in extra-curricular as in intra-curricular activities.

5.

Reference is directed again to the Hartshorne report and to its importance for the total educational program of our denomination. It is not invidious to claim that CRDS is in a position to understand and appropriate its data and its proposals as no other similar institution. Moreover, the permanent value of the survey lies in the willingness of our schools to experiment and expand in the directions it indicates. We have a tradition of untrammelled inquiry, a reputation for pioneering in scholarly research and a physical plant admirably designed for our needs. Hartshorne and Froyd have pointed out some of the areas of exploration into which the pioneering spirit must move. Upon whom, more heavily than ourselves, does the obligation rest?

It is therefore proposed that we move at once so that within the

next three or four years we shall have well established an efficient operation in the following matters:

1. Extension of the three year course to four years. This will allow:

a. The first year for orientation. Basic class-room courses designed to acquaint students with the total area of life within and out of which the religious experience grows. Students should be allocated to work in factories, mercantile houses, trades union organizations, courts, etc., as a part of curriculum assignment for which academic credit will be sought and awarded. If training for the Christian ministry is to be conducted as a professional discipline for a profession, it must begin with thorough clinical contact with the society within which it is to serve.

b. Extension to four years would provide maximum allowance for supervised clinical training in general and mental hospitals, and penal and correctional institutions. We have made a start in this and have extraordinary opportunities locally for its extension, both in the institutions that are near at hand and in the readiness of medical authorities to collaborate with us. As we are presently set up, however, we do not have time for thorough performance.

c. Extension to four years would afford the opportunity for advanced studies in research. We are authorized to grant Master's and Doctor's degrees in theology in addition to the Bachelor's award. Of late we have confined our credit to the lower degree, but the certainty grows that professional training for Christian leadership must make a larger place for technical research under expert direction after one has mastered the basic general disciplines involved in the profession.

d. Such an advance would allow us to make room for new courses. The art and technique of communication has been enormously developed in the modern world and it has been enormously neglected in the professional training of ministers. Journalism, radio, television are words which must be given substance in the directed and practiced experience of men who must capture every medium of communication the modern world will develop if they are going to communicate their testimony widely and expertly.

2. We must plan for a greatly expanded school of Religious Education and make immediate provision for women students in this field. Concurrent with greatly accelerated and refined methods of education has come a decline of men specialists in this field. It is offering unique

advantages for young women who wish to prepare for the Christian vocation. Our experience during the past year indicates the growing demand. We must prepare ourselves to meet it. This year an elective course in Audio-visual Education was offered. The large enrollment reveals how keenly our students feel the need for this kind of training. If, however, it is to be adequately done in our classrooms we shall need much technical and library equipment; and if it is adequately done in our churches we shall need to provide for a conspicuously greater number of students. Since more and more women are applying, we must move toward providing the opportunity. In this connection it is important to think of the whole matter of extension work for clerical and lay leadership. Established as this service is in connection with many state and private institutions, the field is not only wide open for us in this area, but the need is manifest. Protestantism lacks notoriously the effort to keep its lay membership under a continued discipline of ordered and effective teaching. A promise was made during our fund-raising campaign in 1928 looking toward such a movement. Its redemption is long overdue and its importance has grown with its neglect. While this is suggested in connection with the enlargement of our plans for Religious Education, its relation to the matter of Public Relations—to be discussed in the following paragraph—is patent.

3. We must plan thoroughly for the department of Public Relations already authorized by Executive Committee action. This is new only in the recent accentuation of the need for it. Our contacts with alumni have been as determined and as diligent as we have been able to manage and the Dean has already in preparation the basic materials that will greatly enhance the value of our alumni records. But the best we are able to do is limited to the resources of the mail, the regular—and very considerable—contacts of the president and faculty with churches and centers of student population, and such excellent representation as is offered *en tour* by the deservedly famous men's chorus of Professor G. A. Lehman. This year for the first time since the war began fifty-two men under his direction will make a trip of eight days, singing in fifteen places, including the Northern Baptist Convention in Grand Rapids, and end with a gala concert in Rochester. Invaluable as this is in terms of musical excellence and popular goodwill, it is only one of the many elements of a Public Relations program that must be competently coordinated and administered. We have pressing obligations to alumni and churches; we must recruit wisely those who should come here to study, and we must cultivate

friends who can be shown the importance of this school and the opportunity for their financial support of it. We will renew publication of our Quarterly Bulletin in the fall. It should be concurrent with the establishment of a Public Relations Director who will make every resource serve the purpose of informing our proper and potential constituency of the new advances that we are making to meet the new demands of the present hour.

This is essentially an educational program; our priority is education. But it will involve very material addition to capital and current costs. We should prepare at least for a student body of two hundred. Many of these will be married and such increase in new housing facilities as we plan must include apartments for married couples. We shall need considerable increase in teaching and office staff. Our faculty now is carrying its maximum load per man; with increased student body there should be at least one additional man for each department and perhaps one or two to direct research in the new disciplines proposed. Faculty salaries must be generously augmented. Increase in faculty personnel means that serious thought must be given to the building of faculty apartments to house the younger members until their family interests and their compensation indicate more spacious and private domicile. We shall need new technical equipment for the research and teaching suggested in (2) above. And in order to pay the freight on such a heavy load we shall need a greatly expanded current income from perennial gifts and from additional endowment. A cursory estimate of the annual cost of such an expanded teaching program brings us the figure of \$80,000 in addition to our current budget. Capital investment in dormitory and apartment construction would not fall lower than \$300,000.00

Finally: This is a program that is due as of the very immediate future. It is ambitious and designedly so. It will call for thinking and planning commensurate with its aims. It is as significant for the life of this institution now as the courage and vision that in 1932 raised upon this enchanted hill a landmark, spectacularly towered and terraced. But it is not too much to plan nor too great to achieve. The confusion of the modern world breaks repeatedly into voice, and from lips unaccustomed to the language of religion comes the demand for spiritual reassurance and moral guidance. Hiroshima has become the symbol of a new era and a new problem. The world will have no patience with cheap and ill-conceived ideas; it listens not for oracles but for the word of those who know life's bitterness and frustration as intimately as they know its rapture and victory and whose sense

of urgency is matched by their courage. Such a word may never be given unto us to speak, but it is God's mandate that we shall seek it. If our hearts are daunted or our purse-strings drawn we shall not be instruments fit for God's use in this hour of man's extremity. It may be later than we think but it is not too early to begin thinking.

I commend to you as my closing word a verse I wrote some years ago :

Choose you and know, in triumph or disaster—
Since it is you alone in judgment sits :
Who follows Me follows no other Master ;
Who backward looks an alien kindom fits.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN McNEILL POTEAT